

The Conning Tower

January Thaw

The pines stood dripping in the rain to-day.
Their needles clinging each to each until
It seemed the trees were thinner and let through
More of the gray light than on sunny days;
Quiet they were, as well, and spoke not once
Of their great sister, the resurgent sea.
I watched a draggled squirrel run along
A slender limb, releasing as he sprang
A shower of drops like shaken quicksilver.
The cheerful chickadees were dragged, too,
Their neat breasts ruffled and their voices still.
Beyond the pines a pool of water stood
Upon the iris beds, and dank, dead leaves
That covered up the fogslopes plants were spots
Of gloom amid the snow; the compost heap
Was faintly steaming in the humid thaw,
A black volcano risen through the ice.
I sloshed through pools and saw the scum cling 'round
My rubber boots in thin, gray lines; I went
Indoors again and tried to read, in vain—
The words upon the page were meaningless,
And worse the words I tried to write myself.
Then, quietly, as such things come to pass,
A wind arose and shook the pines to speech,
The mystic language of their sister sea;
The west broke clear; the pools on lawn and bed
Were crinkled into gold; a bird sang out
To bid the day farewell.

I tried again
My book, and lo! the words made melody,
A poet had shaped them to his bosom's need!
WALTER PRICHARD EATON.

The violent partisans for the President are unfair, and logic has no place in their arguments; and the violent partisans against the President are equally unfair and illogical. No man can know everything about a complex subject—a subject made up of so many constants and variables—as international law and politics are. But almost any man can assail the logic of the partisan. The anti-Wilson debaters, for example, view, with a trepidation that makes it almost impossible to hold a pen, the Woodrowian radicalism that seeks to undermine George Washington's policy and James Monroe's doctrine. But their reasoning is that anybody who wants to overthrow what Washington and Monroe believed in has no reverence for Washington and Monroe; that he is "un-American"; and, inferentially, what was good enough for a man who did as much for America as Washington did must be good enough for us.

Tuesday night, at the White House reception to members of Congress, the President put an end to the "Blue Room Circle" tradition. The Blue Room Circle was good enough for McKinley and Taft and Roosevelt. Why not attack the President for his unpatriotic uprooting of custom?

The files of the anti-Lincoln papers are not in our office. But it is a safe guess that dozens of editorials appeared between 1860 and 1865 to the effect that slave-holding, which was good enough for Washington and Jefferson, ought to be good enough for their loyal followers.

We don't know whether the President is right or wrong; probably he is both. And we don't know whether his enemies are right or wrong. But we do know that a lot of them are unfair and illogical; and that, turning to a subject we are better grounded in, Mr. H. T. Leake is a trickster at 40 Wall Street.

THE WONDERINGS OF A LISTENER

Amy Lowell was reading Number 6 of her cycle called "The Hammers." Tap-tap-tap: they were making Napoleon's casket. From the walls of the little bookshop so fittingly named "The Sun-wise Turn" golden light was reflected upon a hundred upturned faces. One head was bowed beneath a huge blue hat, and I wondered what that face was like, and what thoughts it masked. Beside me E. B. was looking straight at Miss Lowell, yet through her, beyond her, far into history, to Destiny itself. And the four Peculiar People on the long bench facing us—the three Greenwich Village girls with short hair and unheeded neck scarfs, and the one man with long hair and the lips he had just touched red with rouge—even these, those fluttering entrance had aroused such remarks as, "I thought none of them were it short these days," or, "There's vers libre for you,"—even these sat dumb, quite evidently awed by the sight of an Emperor, and more, lying stiff and cold under a shroud. I marvelled at a personality that could shed its light, thus, across the centuries. I marvelled at the amazing versatility of the woman who could write both "A Roxbury Garden" and "The Hammers." And I wondered whether a contribution like this would land me in the race for the pen.

Yes, W. E. B., the Fountain Pen will have the thermal qualities you desire. It will enable the winner to write warm words when he is chilled with apprehension, and cool phrases when he is hot all over.

TAKE ONE POINT, AND REJOICE.

Sir: Anacreon says "o pa!" (I note you have no Greek type) three times; the phrase occurs five times in the Anacreontea; and I dare say I can find plenty more instances in the Anthology. If I send these examples in separately, will you credit me one point for each?

ADELAIDE.

The auditing for the pen contest will be done by the firm of Lingley, Baird & Dixon, the w. k. accountants.

OH, GIRL!

Maiden, if thy rosy blushes mantle to thy dreamy cheek
As the gentle morn light flushes when thy humble swain doth speak;
Maiden, if around thy shoulders filmy clouds of golden hair
Fill with wonder all beholders that there can be one so fair;
Maiden, if thy gentle lashes softly fall o'er eyes divine,
Or the hidden light glances flash as thy melting gaze meets mine;
Maiden, if the crimson cherry rivals not thy chiselled lip,
Chortle, maiden, and be merry, for thou cert'ly art a pip.

ROUGHNECK KEATS.

Among the things learned from the President's address is that "identical" is a word. Until our recent familiarity with diplomatic phraseology we never heard it. So you see how biased are those pacifists who assert that the war is without any beneficial result.

Add Horrors of Prohibition

To the Editor of The Post-Standard:
When I read in my Post-Standard that the Summer School girls entertained Mayor Street with water cocktails, my blood boiled. What good does it do to teach the children in the schools the damage that alcohol does the human body if this sort of thing is permitted?

PARENT.

"What magazine writing needs to-day," writes Max Eastman in "Journalism Versus Art," "is a standard of amateurism." That is what colymbing has; and that is why contributions to The Tower, offered for nothing, are more interesting than, and possess as high a degree of art as, contributions, offered for pay, to the magazines.

The Sun's picture labelled "Johanna Gadski as Tristan u. Isolde" leads one to the agitating conclusion that Mme. Gadski is doubling in brass.

An addition—R. S. P.'s—to the charmed band of Those Who Write Too Little: Theodosia Garrison.

Who smoked the pipe of peace when Alexander marched into Egypt?
Ask the Sphinx: She knows. P. P. A.

MUSICAL GIVEN BY MRS. DE KOVEN

300 Guests Hear Artists in Elizabethan Gallery of Her Home

"AROUND THE CLOCK" IS SEEN BY MANY

Mrs. Marston Entertains at Luncheon for Miss Esther Kimball

Mrs. Reginald de Koven gave a dinner, followed by music, last night at her home, 1025 Park Avenue. There were twenty-six guests for dinner, and afterward about 300 came in for the musical, which was held in the large Elizabethan gallery of the house.

Among the artists who appeared were Mme. Wagner-Horton, pianist, a cousin of Mrs. William Payne Thompson, who has played with great success in private musicals in Boston this winter; Miss Rosalie Miller, soprano; Miss Nina Vassara, who sang with lute accompaniment, and Thaddeus de Wronski, baritone of the Warsaw and Boston opera companies.

Among the guests at the dinner and musical were Mrs. Vanderbilt, Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Mrs. Whitney Warren, Mrs. William Payne Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Otto H. Kahn, Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Maynard, Mr. John R. Drexel, Mr. John Magee, Mr. and Mrs. George Bird, Colonel and Mrs. Clarence Wadsworth, Mr. and Mrs. James Brown Potter, Mrs. Egerton L. Winthrop, Jr., Mrs. Lawrence Grant White, Mrs. Peter Cooper Hewitt, Mrs. Frank Gray Griswold, Mrs. Stanley Mortimer, Mrs. Edmund L. Baylies, Rawlins L. Cottonet, Miss Katherine Lawrence, Miss Eugenie Ladenburg, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Astor, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. W. Bourke Cockran, Mr. and Mrs. Karick Riggs, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Burden, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Train, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Cowdin and Mr. Morgan Oelrichs.

Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas Murray Butler, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. George William Douglas, the Duke and Duchess de Richelieu, Mrs. Catherine Jones, Mrs. Gifford, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Hamilton McK. Twombly, Francis Roche, Professor and Mrs. Henry Fairfield Osborn, Mrs. H. Van Rensselaer Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. August Belmont, Mr. James Russell Seligman, Mr. and Mrs. Courtlandt Field Bishop, Miss Josephine de Gersdorff, Mr. and Mrs. W. Adams Delano, Miss Mabel Gerry, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. August Belmont, Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey M. Depew, Miss Elsie de Wolfe, Miss Katherine Steward, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Drexel, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer, Mr. and Mrs. Norman de R. Whitehouse, Mr. and Mrs. Lucius K. Wilmerding, Mr. and Mrs. George W. B. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Guinness, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Young, Mr. and Mrs. Newbold Edgar, Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey M. DePew, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Douglass, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. John Gray, Percy R. Pyne, 2d, Mrs. Charles T. Barney, Miss Lola Robinson, Charles T. Sampson, Mr. and Mrs. James S. Kipper, Harrison Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Rayley, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Juilliard and Frederick H. Baldwin.

Mrs. De Koven will give another dinner, followed by music about the middle of February.

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Hornblower De Witt, of 40 West Fifty-first Street, will give a dance for 150 young people on January 31 at the Chalf, 163 West Fifty-third Street.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lovett Kingsland arrived in town yesterday from their country place at Hempstead, Long Island, and are at the Gotham.

Henry H. Arnestad gave a dinner last night at the Ritz-Carlton for Major and Mrs. Cyril P. Dugmore. Another dinner was given there by William Earl Dodge for his sister, Mrs. John H. McCullough.

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Violinist Assists Philharmonic Orchestra at Carnegie Hall

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"FIGARO" REVIVED AT METROPOLITAN

Frieda Hempel, Alone of Cast, Possesses the "Mozart Style"

PERFORMANCE PROVES DELIGHTFUL IN PART

Farrar, as Cherubino, Fails to Recreate Lovable Philanderer

With much that was delightful in the performance of "Le Nozze di Figaro," at the Metropolitan Opera House last night, the fact was forced upon the minds of old opera-goers that Mozart's operas are rapidly disappearing from the ken as well as the capacity of modern singers. It is only eight years since the opera last formed a factor in the Metropolitan repertoire, but in the spirit as well as the matter of the performance it seemed to have gone into a decay indicative of a much longer period of neglect.

The fault did not lie with Mr. Bodanzky, who, in the choice of tempi at least, represented better traditions than did Mr. Mahler, who conducted it then—if Mr. Mahler represented traditions at all. There was an excellent appreciation of the sparkling effervescence of Mozart's music in all that Mr. Bodanzky did, and had he received such support by all the stage people as he got from Miss Hempel it would be the pleasant duty of the reviewer to record a triumphant revival of the opera.

But to imagine the Countess de Beaumarchais, De Ponte and Mozart in the staid and too mature figure which Mme. Mattenauer presented was impossible. Nor did Miss Farrar succeed, in spite of her pretty face and essays at archness, in recreating for the audience the figure of the youthful philanderer, the drama, spoken or sung, has to show. In the memories of the last performances she lingered somewhat pleasantly, because she was then fitted into better ensemble and seemed less disposed to believe that she was the central character in the play. With Sembrich as Susanna and Eames as the Countess, she could not quite help it, of course, but a loss of winsomeness in appearance and freshness of voice cannot be atoned for by a growth in assurance.

Mr. Didur, who played the part of the Count last night, was the Figaro of the last representations, and displayed the same sound appreciation of his new character as he had of the old; but De Luca, who replaced him as the genial valet, was not so successful. He had a sense of humor, and helped to accentuate the fact that the need of extraordinary vocal gifts grows in exact ratio with the size of the auditorium in which the opera is performed. A thousand pities that the deterioration of singers, coupled with the lack of a lyric theatre adapted to operas of this kind, is threatening to banish Mozart from the stage of the local Met.

All that can be called a survival of the Mozart style in last night's performance was summed up in the performance of Miss Hempel; she alone knew, equally well, how to act her part, and how to sing it. Her recitatives, thanks to Mr. Bodanzky, largely, but also to the honest endeavor of the singers, the inimitable finale of the second act, went capital from the distribution of parts:

Count Almaviva.....Adamo Delfino
The Countess.....Margaret Mattenauer
Figaro.....Albert Didur
Cherubino.....Frieda Hempel
Susanna.....Eugenie Sembrich
Dr. Bartolo.....Kathleen Howard
Don Basilio.....Albert Didur
Don Giovanni.....Albert Didur
Don Juan.....Albert Didur
Don Pedro.....Albert Didur
Don Alonso.....Albert Didur
Don Diego.....Albert Didur
Don Antonio.....Albert Didur
Don Sebastian.....Albert Didur
Don Fernando.....Albert Didur
Don Alvaro.....Albert Didur
Don Ramon.....Albert Didur
Don Juan.....Albert Didur
Don Pedro.....Albert Didur
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